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Has Ramparts magazine itself been the indirect recipient of CIA cash? Well, that remains to be seen, but the suggestion comes from another partisan, fringe publication, The New Guard. • For a month now, The New Guard, a rightwing magazine published by Young Americans for Freedom, has been trying to return Ramparts' original serve. Ramparts, orientated toward the left, opened the match by charging that the National Student Association was in part financed, thru sundry private foundations, by the Central Intelligence Agency. • The game moved swiftly after that, with new CIA-backed foundations, businessmen, students, et al, turning up every minute.

Now, in its April issue (for release next week), The New Guard has a story which it hopes will get the ball back over the net to where Ramparts will have some explaining to do itself. • The article, written by Phillip Luce, says that a CIA-financed foundation is a contributor to another foundation on whose board sits a man who is a financial backer of Ramparts. • Yesterday, I talked to YAF "College Director" Phil Cramer, who read parts of The New Guard's "expose" to me: "One of the major financiers of Ramparts is Irving Laucks, who is on the Governing Board at the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, in Santa Barbara, Calif."

The article continues: "The Center also is responsible for sending Robert Scheer, managing editor of Ramparts, to Vietnam. The records of the Albert Paver Foundation, already cited by the mass media as a CIA conduit, show it has given \$15,000 to the Center in the last year." • A careful check of files at The Washington Daily News failed to turn up any "mass media" mention of the Paver Foundation being a CIA conduit. There is confirmation that the Center sent some people to Vietnam, but Mr. Scheer is not among those listed. Mr. Laucks frequently is mentioned as a Ramparts backer.

At this point, it's uncertain if the Paver outfit is a CIA conduit and if it is, whether any money it gave the Center actually went to Ramparts. • Attacking from a different angle, The Guard says: "When the Ford Foundation was created in the early 1950's, at least one CIA operative was placed in that Foundation with the specific job of channeling funds to 'worthwhile' organizations. The Ford Foundation has been a major contributor to the Center." • The New York Times says, "... the Ford Foundation has had no CIA connections since 1959-60, according to informed sources." • It remains to be seen if Ramparts got money from the Center itself or just Mr. Laucks. • It's all rather confusing and the foul lines have become somewhat obliterated.